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SUBJECT: KRAFT LINERBOARD

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1. TECHNICAL PAPER ON FIBER ANALYSIS OF KRAFT LINERBOARD RECEIVED FROM API JANUARY 20. EMBASSY MAY, AS APPROPRIATE, GIVE IT TO OFFICIALS IN DOT OR HMG CUSTOMS. INFORMATION REQUESTED ON SHIPMENTS NOT PROVIDED BY API. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO RAISE THIS WITH DR. MEISTER WHILE SHE IS IN EUROPE. TEXT ON FIBER ANALYSIS FOLLOWS:

2. FIBER ANALYSIS TESTING IS HIGHLY COMPLEX AND REQUIRES CONSIDERABLE SKILL AND EXPERIENCE. ERRONEOUS IDENTIFICATION OF FIBERS BY A LABORATORY TECHNICIAN IS QUITE POSSIBLE FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS WHICH ARE EXPLAINED IN THIS PAPER.

3. IN THE UNITED STATES, THE TECHNICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE PULP AND PAPER INDUSTRY (TAPPI), A RECOGNIZED WORLD-WIDE AUTHORITY IN ESTABLISHING QUALITY STANDARDS AND TESTING METHODS, PUBLISHED TESTING METHODS FOR FIBER
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ANALYSIS IN A DOCUMENT T-401 OS-74. BASICALLY, THE FIBER

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TEST REQUIRES THAT THE SAMPLE OF PAPER OR PAPERBOARD BE STAINED WITH ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING SIX STAINS LISTED IN THE TEST PROCEDURE:

GRAFF "C" STAIN
HERZBERG STAIN
SELLEGER'S STAIN
WILSON'S STAIN
ALEXANDER'S STAIN
THE DU PONT STAINS

4. USING A MICROSCOPE, THE TECHNICIAN EXAMINING THE SAMPLE AFTER STAINING MUST MAKE CERTAIN JUDGEMENTS TO IDENTIFY FIBER TYPE BASED ON THEIR DIFFERENT SHADES OR COLORS. WHEN THERE IS DOUBT AS TO THE TYPE OF FIBER BASED ON ONE STAIN, AN ALTERNATE STAIN IS USED. IN SOME CASES, THE TECHNICIAN MUST PERFORM THE TESTING PROCEDURE SIX OR MORE TIMES USING ALL STAINS TO CONFIRM THE FIBER COMPOSITION.

5. IN CONNECTION WITH THE TESTS WHICH WE UNDERSTAND HAVE BEEN PERFORMED BY THE U.K. CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES, THE FOLLOWING POINTS ARE IMPORTANT:

A. THE HERZBERG STAIN, THOUGH AN ACCEPTABLE TESTING METHOD BY ITSELF, WHEN NOT CONFIRMED BY USING ALTERNATE STAINS MAY NOT BE SUFFICIENT FOR CORRECT IDENTIFICATION AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE TYPES OF FIBERS.

B. WHILE SOFTWOOD, MOSTLY PINE, IS THE PREDOMINANT WOOD SPECIES USED IN PRODUCTION OF KRAFT LINERBOARD, OCCASIONALLY, HARDWOOD SPECIES WILL BE CHARGED TO THE KRAFT PULP DIGESTER. HARDWOOD AND SOFTWOOD SPECIES EVEN WHEN COOKED BY THE KRAFT SULPHATE PROCESS WILL STAIN DIFFERENTLY IN FIBER ANALYSIS TESTS. THE HARDWOODS COULD BE INCORRECTLY IDENTIFIED AS OTHER FIBERS SUCH AS SEMI-CHEMICAL FIBERS WHICH ARE ALSO PRODUCED FROM HARDWOODS. THE ALLEGED PRESENCE OF SEMI-CHEMICAL FIBER COULD IN TURN BE INTERPRETED AS SIGNIFYING THE ADDITION OF RECYCLED FIBER WHEN THIS MAY NOT BE THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CASE.

C. THERE ARE SEVERAL REASONS IN ADDITION TO THE POINT LISTED ABOVE CONCERNING HARDWOOD WHY FIBER ANALYSIS OF KRAFT LINERBOARD PRODUCED FROM 100 VIRGIN FIBER WOULD NEVERTHELESS SHOW SMALL AMOUNTS OF FIBER OTHER THAN SULPHATE PROCESSED SOFTWOOD:

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(1) EACH MILL IS REQUIRED TO HAVE A DEVICE TO REMOVE FIBERS FROM THE MILL'S WATER EFFLUENT PARTLY FOR ECONOMIC REASONS AND PARTLY IN ORDER TO MEET ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS FOR WATER QUALITY. THESE RECOVERED FIBERS, WHICH COULD BE A COMINGLING OF FIBERS PRODUCED BY DIFFERENT PULPING PROCESSES, ARE RETURNED TO THE MILL'S FIBER SUPPLY. ALTHOUGH THE AMOUNT OF THESE RECLAIMED FIBERS IS SMALL COMPARED TO THE TOTAL USE OF FIBERS, THEY CAN STAIN DIFFERENTLY FROM THE SULPHATE PROCESSED SOFTWOOD, AND AN INEXPERIENCED TECHNICIAN COULD MISTAKENLY IDENTIFY THEM AS RECYCLED FIBERS.

(2) EACH MILL PRODUCING A MULTIPLICITY OF GRADES IS EQUIPPED WITH "BROKE" PULPERS. THE PAPER AND PAPERBOARD PRODUCED ON STARTUP OR SHUTDOWN DURING PERIODS WHEN THE WEB OF PAPER BREAKS AND DURING GRADE CHANGES ARE FED TO THE BROKE PULPER AND RETURNED TO THE FIBER SUPPLY SYSTEM FOR THE MILL. EACH MACHINE IS EQUIPPED WITH A BROKE PULPER AND THE BROKE IS NORMALLY RETURNED TO THE GRADE BEING PRODUCED. IT IS POSSIBLE, IN SOME INSTANCES, THAT SMALL AMOUNTS OF BROKE PRODUCED ON ONE MACHINE WOULD BE FED INTO THE FIBER SUPPLY OF A KRAFT LINERBOARD MACHINE. WHILE THE AMOUNTS OF SUCH "OTHER FIBERS" ARE INSIGNIFICANT, IT CAN NEVERTHELESS SHOW IN THE FIBER ANALYSIS.

D. THE OFFICIAL U.S. DEFINITION, AS ADOPTED BY THE PAPERBOARD GROUP OF THE AMERICAN PAPER INSTITUTE AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, DESCRIBES KRAFT LINERBOARD AS "PAPERBOARD MADE FROM A FURNISH CONTAINING NOT LESS THAN 80 VIRGIN WOODPULP PRODUCED BY THE KRAFT SULPHATE PROCESS." THIS DEFINITION LEAVES ROOM
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FOR THE UNAVOIDABLE PRESENCE OF FIBERS OTHER THAN THOSE PRODUCED BY THE KRAFT SULPHATE PROCESS, AS DESCRIBED IN THE POINTS ABOVE, AS WELL AS FOR THE UTILIZATION OF THE BOX CLIPPINGS WHICH ARE ADDED TO THE FIBER SUPPLY AS A PART OF NORMAL MANUFACTURING PROCESS. MANUFACTURERS OF KRAFT LINERBOARD HAVE FOR YEARS UTILIZED CLIPPINGS GENERATED IN THE COMPANY'S OWN BOX PLANTS. AS A RULE, THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF CLIPPINGS USED IN ANY MILL WOULD BE BETWEEN 10 AND 15. BOX PLANT CLIPPINGS BEING USED ARE OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED AS NEW DOUBLE KRAFT LINED CORRUGATED CUTTINGS HAVING TWO LINERS OF KRAFT (ABOUT 70 OF THE TOTAL FIBER CONTENT OF THE CUTTINGS) AND CORRUGATING MEDIUM (ABOUT 30). THUS, KRAFT LINERBOARD MADE USING, FOR EXAMPLE,10 OF CLIPPINGS WHEN TESTED FOR FIBER ANALYSIS COULD SHOW ABOUT 3 OF

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SEMI-CHEMICAL FIBERS IN THE FINISHED PRODUCT IF THE MEDIUM IN THE CUTTINGS WAS SEMI-CHEMICAL MEDIUM.

6. IN SUMMARY, UNITED STATES MILLS MANUFACTURING KRAFT LINERBOARD FOR EXPORT HAVE USED THE SAME MANUFACTURING PROCESS IN 1975 AS THEY USED IN PREVIOUS YEARS. FOR THE REASONS INDICATED IN THIS PAPER, TESTS BY CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES PERFORMED IN 1974 SHOULD NOT SHOW DIFFERENT RESULTS FROM THE TESTS PERFORMED IN 1975. IN THE CASES OF THE MILLS THAT USE 100 VIRGIN FIBERS, SMALL AMOUNTS OF "OTHER FIBERS" ARE NEVERTHELESS INEVITABLE. IN THE CASE OF THE MILLS THAT UTILIZE BOX PLANT CLIPPINGS OR IN SOME CASES USED CORRUGATED BOXES, THE MINIMUM 80 VIRGIN FIBER REQUIREMENT TO QUALIFY AS KRAFT LINERBOARD PRECLUDES A POSSIBILITY THAT OTHER FIBER WOULD CONSTITUTE MORE THAN 6 OF TOTAL FIBER CONTENT AND IN MOST CASES THE AMOUNT WOULD BE EVEN LESS. WE BELIEVE THAT IF THE HERZBERG TEST COMBINED, WHEN NECESSARY, WITH OTHER STAIN TESTS WERE PROPERLY INTERPRETED, THE RESULT OF THE CUSTOMS TESTING WOULD BE IDENTICAL WITH THOSE THAT WERE OBTAINED IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR. SISCO

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